

Landowner's Guide to Conservation Incentives In Georgia



**Fifth Edition
May 2015**

Using the Guide

Landowners should be aware that this guide is not inclusive of all programs available to conserve land. This booklet presents only fundamental aspects of select programs (ones that benefit forestry and wildlife) in a format that allows landowners to easily compare them. Many of these programs are subject to funding and legislative changes. For the most up-to-date information, we encourage landowners to contact the appropriate organization that manages the program or check www.georgiawildlife.com/LandownersGuide.

For simplicity, conservation programs in this guide are divided into three main sections:

1. Technical Assistance: Developing a Plan for Managing Your Land

This section highlights programs that focus on developing conservation management plans to help landowners best meet their objectives. These programs can include an informal or formal consultation with a biologist, forester or soil conservationist who can provide the latest information and technology for managing land.

2. Financial Assistance for Management Practices

A list of select programs in Georgia that offer financial assistance to landowners for implementing certain management practices are presented in this section. These programs vary in incentive amount and type and eligible practices, but most require a commitment by the landowner to continue the practice for a period of time.

3. Land Conservation Incentives

In this section, landowners are presented with some of the incentives available for voluntarily protecting their land. Incentives are typically in the form of tax relief.

The directory at the end of the guide contains contact information for conservation agencies in Georgia. We hope this guide will simplify the many government and non-government programs that offer conservation assistance.

Note: Most of the landowner assistance programs described in this booklet change regularly. For updates to this printed version, please see:

www.georgiawildlife.com/LandownersGuide

**Together, with your commitment to conservation,
we can protect Georgia's incredible natural resources for
generations to come.**

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Technical Assistance: Developing a Plan For Managing Your Land





Private Lands Program

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Private Lands Program assists private landowners who are interested in integrating wildlife within their land management objectives. Biologists are available for on-site consultations and can provide management recommendations and guidance on financial assistance programs. This Wildlife Resources Division team of biologists is available statewide, includes a variety of personnel with expertise with game and nongame wildlife, and aims to provide practical and effective recommendations that restore and maintain wildlife habitats. Included within Private Lands Program are Bobwhite Quail Initiative (BQI) biologists who have expertise in evaluating landscape potential for bobwhite management and working with landowners to develop detailed bobwhite management plans and site-specific practices. Contact a DNR Private Lands biologist (see directory, page 34) for more information on technical assistance and wildlife management.



Bobwhite Quail Initiative (BQI)

BQI provides technical assistance for private landowners who are interested in increasing quail populations through habitat restoration. Georgia's quail population has declined by approximately 90 percent since the early 1960s primarily due to loss of quality early succession habitat. Restoring this habitat type within row crop agriculture and forest landscapes also benefits many songbirds and other wildlife, improves water quality, reduces soil erosion, and can economically enhance local communities by stimulating quail hunting and wildlife viewing. Landowners are advised about available financial incentives. BQI is supported solely through sales and renewals of "Support Wildlife" license plate (the quail, deer and turkey designs), grants and direct donations. Any private non-industrial landowner is eligible for a management plan.

For service, call a professional wildlife biologist within your Georgia BQI region:

- East: 706.554.3745
- Central: 478.296.6176,
- Southwest: 229.420.1212
- Details: www.gohuntgeorgia.com/conservation/quail





Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) helps private landowners manage their natural resources with a written management plan that integrates and focuses their objectives of sustaining quality native timber, wildlife populations, soil and water resources, aesthetics, and recreation. Plans prescribe select conservation practices for specific areas of land. A team of professional natural resource managers with expertise in soil/water conservation, forestry and wildlife biology will tour a landowner's property with them at no charge to check forest health; discuss the landowner's objectives, planning options for the next 10 years and available conservation incentive programs; and point out specific areas that need attention. After follow-up fieldwork is completed, the landowner will receive a tailored plan. To apply, visit www.gfc.state.ga.us, select "Forest Management," then "Forest Stewardship." If wildlife is a primary objective, the landowner can also inquire by calling a Wildlife Resources Division professional wildlife biologist at 706.557.3263.



Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

The purpose of the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is to assist landowners in planning and implementing conservation systems that reduce erosion and upstream flooding, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and improve air quality, pasture and range condition, soil and water quality, and woodlands. NRCS assistance is provided through conservation districts to landowners who want to apply conservation practices. NRCS district conservationists can also provide technical assistance to landowners enrolled in Farm Bill programs. A customized conservation plan can be written that identifies the appropriate conservation practices most applicable to a landowner's property. Contact a local NRCS office (see directory, page 29) for more information on conservation plans.



Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

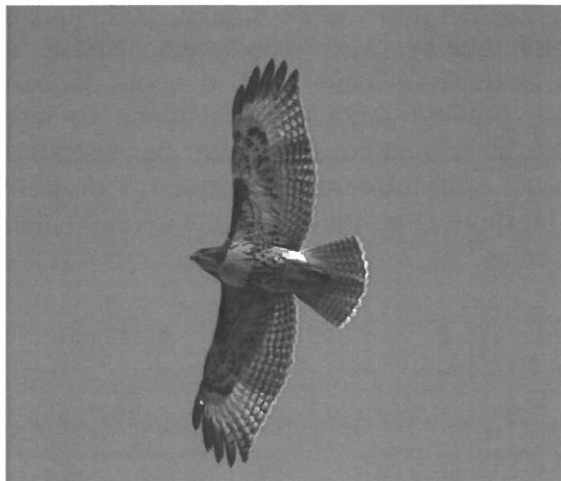
This is a program for landowners who have federally listed wildlife species on their property or habitat that would likely support these species. Because the Endangered Species Act prohibits activities that would be harmful to listed species, the way landowners use their property may be affected. As a compromise, Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) can be developed that allow landowners to conduct activities that might be detrimental to listed species as long as the landowners have an approved plan for mitigating those impacts. HCPs are highly variable and reflect a landowner's interests, the needs of the species and the recommendations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). HCPs can be: Written for one or several species, valid for short or long periods and designed for very small or very large areas. For more information, contact the USFWS (see directory, page 36).

Forest*A*Syst

Forest*A*Syst Program



The Forest*A*Syst program is web-based tool managed by the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health and the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. This website is designed to help forest landowners articulate their management objectives in a written plan and foster a working relationship with a natural resource professional who can provide guidance and technical assistance. Forest*A*Syst provides an introduction to the concepts of managing a forest for timber production, wildlife, water quality, recreation and aesthetics. The Forest*A*Syst program is at www.forestasyst.org. For more information, visit the website or call 706.542.7412.



Financial Assistance For Management Practices





Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)



Description

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a Farm Bill program designed to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on highly erodible portions of agricultural lands by establishing permanent vegetative cover and helping landowners safeguard environmentally sensitive areas.

Benefits to Landowner

Landowners may receive annual rental payments, cost-share payments (50 percent) and technical assistance for eligible conservation practices. Annual rental payments vary based on the agricultural rental value of the land. Additional incentive payments may be paid after contracts are approved and eligible practices installed. An annual maintenance fee is also provided to the landowner.

Costs to Landowner

CRP provides a 50 percent cost-share reimbursement; thus, landowners pay at least half of the costs of establishing the approved conservation practices.

Term

Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

Eligibility/Limitations

Landowners are eligible if the land is owned or operated for at least 12 months, has been planted in an agricultural commodity for at least four of the previous six years and is physically and legally capable of being planted. Other eligible acres can be considered if they are in a national or state CRP Conservation Priority Area or have highly erodible soils. For certain conservation practices, marginal pastureland also may be considered.

Eligible Practices

CRP practices most beneficial to wildlife include hardwood and longleaf pine planting, thinning of already established CRP pine stands, prescribed burning, native grass planting, permanent wildlife habitat establishment, riparian buffers, field borders, filter strips, and wildlife opening establishment.

Examples:

- CCRP CP33 **Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds:** directed primarily at restoring habitat for bobwhite quail through the establishment and maintenance of field buffers 30 to 120 feet wide around the edges of commercial agricultural fields.
- CCRP CP36 **Longleaf Pine Initiative:** designed to re-establish longleaf pine forests, including their native groundcover plants, within their historical range in Georgia. There are 116 eligible counties located primarily 1) south of and between Lincoln and Monroe counties and 2) west of and between Chattooga and Upson counties. The Georgia Forestry Commission determines if sites are appropriate for longleaf establishment.

For More Information

Sign-up dates vary by conservation practice. Contact the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office (see directory, page 29). For more information: www.fsa.usda.gov.



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Description

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a Farm Bill program (formerly the Conservation Security Program) that provides financial and technical assistance promoting conservation and improvement of natural resources on private lands. CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional practices. CSP provides opportunities both to recognize excellent stewards and implement new conservation practices.

Benefits to Landowner

CSP provides participants with an annual payment for installing new conservation practices and maintaining existing activities. A supplemental payment may be earned for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation.

Costs to Landowner

CSP is an annual payment program, therefore there are no costs outside of installation and maintenance of the conservation practices.

Term

Contracts are for five years and may be renewed an additional five years. Re-enrollments must continue to meet the conservation objectives of the original contracts and implement additional conservation practices.

Eligibility/Limitations

CSP is available on private agricultural lands, as well as non-industrial private forestlands. Landowners interested in CSP are encouraged to begin the application process by completing a self-screening checklist. For all contracts, CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any year and \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period.

Eligible Practices

Applications in Georgia are ranked based on five priority natural resource concerns: water quality, water quantity, soil quality, soil erosion and energy. Two ranking pools are established for applications with similar resource concerns, one each for north and south Georgia. Eligible practices include forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, tree planting, riparian buffers, forest openings, pollinator habitat and many more agriculture and forest management practices.

For More Information

Contact the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). See the directory on page 29 for county-by-county contact information.



Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)



Description

This Farm Bill program provides financial and technical assistance to landowners concerning management practices to protect soil, water, forest and wildlife resources. Historically, animal waste systems, cropland resource management systems and grazing land resource management systems have been soil and water resource focuses in Georgia. For forest and wildlife resource concerns, conservation practices that promote the recovery of rare species have priority.

Benefits to Landowner

Landowners receive technical assistance to reduce impacts to the environment and may receive financial cost-share assistance to cover up to 75 percent of the costs of implementing conservation practices. For beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers or limited resource farmers, EQIP may cover up to 90 percent of the cost of implementing conservation practices.

Costs to Landowner

Typically, landowners are responsible for paying the difference in the cost-share, ranging from 25 -50 percent out of pocket, for implementing conservation practices. In most cases, the landowner pays the full cost to implement the practices and is then reimbursed the cost-share amount. For beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers or limited resource farmers, advance payments of up to 50 percent may be available.

Term

The minimum contract is one year; the maximum is 10 years.

Eligibility/Limitations

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible to apply for EQIP. An adjusted gross income limit of \$900,000 a year applies. The maximum payment an individual or entity can receive is \$450,000 over six years.

Eligible Practices

EQIP practices most beneficial for wildlife include prescribed burning, forest stand improvement (e.g., pine thinning), brush management, invasive plant control, forest road improvements, livestock stream crossing installation, field borders, longleaf site preparation and planting, hedgerows, and early successional habitat creation. Other traditional practices include river buffer fencing, filter strips, silvo-pasture, conservation tillage and much more.

Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW)

The Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) program provides technical and financial assistance to voluntarily implement conservation practices to improve gopher tortoise habitat, while allowing landowners to manage their property as working lands. WLFW, a partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, is designed to combat decline of specific species to hopefully prevent them from being listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. In Georgia, that species is primarily the gopher tortoise. Eligible properties are a minimum of 10 acres and must include a minimum of 50 percent soil types designated as appropriate gopher tortoise

habitat. WLFW eligible conservation practices include prescribed burning, longleaf pine establishment, forest stand improvement (thinning), brush management and others. Contracts are limited to three years and \$100,000.

Longleaf Pine Initiative

EQIP also has several funding pools for special initiatives, including cost-share for planting and enhancing longleaf pine forests within their historical range in Georgia. Cost-share rates are 75 percent. Eligible practices include tree and shrub site prep, tree and shrub establishment, brush management, firebreak installation, prescribed burning, and others. Properties must be at least 10 acres, and a forest management plan must be developed and implemented to be eligible. Contracts are for three years and capped at 50 acres for tree planting and 125 acres for prescribed burning.

For More Information

Applications for the EQIP program are available through local NRCS offices (call for sign-up dates). See the directory on page 29 for county-by-county contact information. Visit the www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov for more details.





Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW)



Description

This U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) program encourages private landowners to restore and enhance ecosystems to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. Priorities for funding in Georgia include longleaf pine habitat restoration, riparian and stream habitat restoration, and threatened and endangered species habitat restoration.

Benefits to Landowner

Landowners obtain technical assistance for appropriate management and stewardship of priority resources and financial support to implement restoration activities. Landowners may receive up to 100 percent of the costs of implementing wildlife habitat restoration activities.

Costs to Landowner

The landowner or other partner is usually asked to cover half the cost of habitat restoration. But, this ratio is flexible, and the USFWS can elect to pay all costs.

Term

Landowners agree to maintain management practices/restored habitats for at least 10 years. Some projects may require a more long-term agreement.

Eligibility/Limitations

Any private landowner is eligible. There are no restrictions on project size. Eligible projects are wide-ranging and include farms, pastures and forestry sites. The USFWS gives special consideration to projects that: 1) are on permanently protected private lands; 2) are identified as high priority by state fish and wildlife agencies or other partners; 3) are near permanently protected areas including national wildlife refuges, military lands, state-owned wildlife management areas, etc.; 4) reduce habitat fragmentation; 5) conserve or restore natural communities which the state Natural Heritage Programs have designated as globally or nationally imperiled; and, 6) are self-sustaining systems that are not dependent on artificial structures.

The USFWS prioritizes projects that: 1) have longer duration agreements, 2) involve greater non-service partnerships or cost sharing and 3) are considered the most cost effective.

Eligible Practices

Project examples include stream restoration and livestock exclusion, and upland native vegetation restoration – which can include longleaf pine planting and establishment of native ground cover.

For More Information

Contact the nearest USFWS office (see directory, page 36) or visit www.fws.gov/georgia.

Wildlife Incentives for Nongame and Game Species (Project Wings)

Description

Project WINGS is a rights-of-way management campaign funded by Georgia Power, Georgia Transmission Corporation, the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and Atlanta Gas Light Resources. The program is designed to improve wildlife habitat along gas and electrical transmission lines by establishing healthy wildlife habitat while ensuring that tall or woody vegetation does not encroach on utility rights-of-way, potentially damaging power and gas lines.

Participant Benefits

This incentives program provides cash grants and professional wildlife management advice to convert woody growth to preferred wildlife habitat along electrical or gas transmission rights-of-way.

Participant Responsibilities

Participants pay for the initial costs of implementing management practices and are reimbursed up to the dollar amount awarded, but not to exceed \$1,500 per utility. Participants are not required to provide receipts for work, but must contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service once the work is completed. Grants are usually paid within 60 days following the completion of work as certified by Natural Resources Conservation Service staff.

Term

Participants must maintain the practices for three years. Former WINGS acreage can be re-enrolled, provided the original contract was completed and three years have passed since its completion. This re-enrollment is referred to as the "in three years, out three years rule."

Eligibility/Limitations

Landowners, leaseholders, hunting clubs, wildlife organizations, government entities and others committed to managing rights-of-way for wildlife may apply for a grant. Applications can only be accepted by the NRCS from May 15 through July 15 of each year. Payment rates are a flat \$50 per acre per year per utility for each of the three years. Participants can either implement the management practices themselves or hire someone to do the work.

Eligible Practices

Eligible wildlife management practices include mowing with fallow disking, annual plantings and permanent plantings. Herbicide applications and mowing without disking are not eligible practices.

For More Information

Call 706.885.0101 or visit www.tworiversrcd.org. See the directory, page 29 for an NRCS office list by county.



Section 319 Grant Program

Description

The federally funded Section 319 Grant Program is a water quality improvement cost-share program made possible by Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. The program's primary focus is to prevent and control agricultural non-point source pollution within area watersheds. The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) will work with landowners to develop nutrient management plans, conduct farm assessments and install best management practices (BMPs) that will reduce water quality degradation as funding is available.

Benefits to Landowner

Landowners receive technical assistance to install best management practices to improve and protect surface water quality and reduce soil erosion. Financial cost-share assistance covers 60 percent of the costs of implementing conservation measures.

Costs to Landowner

Landowners typically receive at least a 60-percent cost-share for the management practices installed. For extended stream buffer fencing, cost-share is also available at 80 and 100 percent, depending on the width of the buffer.

Term

The maximum contract is one year. GSWCC requires that landowners maintain the practice according to NRCS life expectancy estimations, usually five to 10 years depending on the practice.

Eligibility/Limitations

Funding is available to persons engaged in agricultural and livestock practices in project area watersheds. This is not a statewide program. Grant funds are received for designated watersheds. The GSWCC website defines the areas where ongoing projects are taking place.

Eligible Practices

A majority of the practices listed in NRCS's Technical Guide addressing surface water quality are eligible for cost-share assistance. Potential practices include installation of livestock stream crossings, stream buffers, fencing, filter strips, stack houses, winter feeders, composters, heavy use areas, water troughs and more.

For More Information

GSWCC accepts applications on an ongoing basis in each project area until funds are obligated. Visit www.gaswcc.georgia.gov for more information. Interested parties can also contact their local regional offices for more information (see directory, page 37).



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Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Cost Share Program

Eligibility

This program is administered by the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) with U.S. Forest Service funds. Non-industrial forest landowners are eligible (this includes any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe or other native group, or other private legal entity, excluding corporations whose stocks are publicly traded or legal entities principally engaged in the processing or manufacturing of wood products). The minimum practice size is 10 acres.

Eligible Practices

The primary focus is on pine beetle prevention practices such as non-commercial thinning, pine release and prescribed burning in stands dominated by loblolly and shortleaf pines. Occasionally, funding is directed at reforestation that would include site preparation practices and hardwood or pine planting (longleaf, loblolly, slash, shortleaf and white pines). During periods of higher southern pine beetle activity, a portion of funds are directed toward pine beetle suppression activities. The practices funded depend on the funding year and the amount of funds received.

Pay Rate

The per-acre pay rate is based on 40 percent of the average cost of the practice. Pay rates cannot exceed 75 percent of the documented, actual cost.

Term

A period of 10 years unless practice is so noted on the program's Resource Practice Plan that fewer years are determined for maintenance.

Application Process

Contact a local GFC Forester to apply: www.gfc.state.ga.us/about-us/contact-us/county-units/index.cfm. Applications are received as long as funding is available.

For More Information

www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/pine-bark-beetles/spb-cost-share-program/index.cfm



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Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

Eligibility

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers this program, and the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) provides technical service. County FSA committees determine land eligibility using on-site damage inspections that assess the type and extent of damage. To be eligible for this program, non-industrial forest land must:

- Have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and is suitable for growing trees); and,
- Be owned by a nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

In addition, the natural disaster must have resulted in damage that if untreated would impair or endanger the natural resources on the land and materially affect future use of the land.

Forestry Practices Covered

Practices necessary to restore forests either through natural or artificial regeneration. This would include practices such as mechanical clearing, herbicide applications, seedlings and planting.

Pay Rate

Participants may receive financial assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency forest restoration practices.

Contract Length

Ten years.

Application Process

Contact FSA at a local USDA Service Center regarding sign-up periods (see directory, page 29).

For More Information

www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index

Land Conservation Incentives



Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA)

Description

Certain properties, including agricultural lands, forestlands and environmentally sensitive areas, may be eligible for reduced property tax assessments through conservation use valuation. These properties are assessed according to a combination of soil type, productivity and use. This typically results in a significant reduction of property taxes.

Benefits to Landowner

Landowners receive a reduced ad valorem tax assessment for their property.

Costs to Landowner

There are no direct costs to the landowner for entering into a CUVA covenant for forested lands or agricultural lands. There may be costs, however, for landowners entering into a CUVA covenant for environmentally sensitive land, because of the specific regulations for certification. There are significant penalties for landowners who break the covenant before the end of the 10-year period. Owners who break their conservation use covenant must pay back to the taxing authorities up to twice the savings they received over the life of the covenant up to the point it was breached, plus any applicable interest. If the property is sold during the covenant period, the new landowner must agree to continue the covenant or be responsible for penalties and taxes due if the covenant is breached under their ownership.

Term

Landowners must promise to maintain their lands in the designated use (agriculture, forestry or environmentally sensitive) for 10 years. Landowners can re-enroll after 10 years if they wish to remain in CUVA.

Eligibility

Each county tax assessor's office is charged with administering the program. Generally, there is no minimum acreage requirement; however, owners of fewer than 10 acres must provide written documentation giving evidence of qualification. No more than 2,000 acres can be enrolled in CUVA by any one non-industrial, private landowner. Foreign citizens and foreign corporations are not eligible to enroll. The land must be kept in its qualifying use and cannot be used for any non-agricultural commercial business.

Landowner Initiation

Contact the local county tax assessor's office (<http://gaassessors.com>) for applications and enrollment information. Applications for conservation use assessment must be filed with the county board of tax assessors on or before the last day for filing ad valorem tax returns in the county (usually April 1).

For more specifics on CUVA, see the Georgia Department of Revenue's web page at <http://dor.georgia.gov/conservation-use-assessment-information> .

Forest land Protection Act (FLPA)

Description

Large tracts of privately or corporately owned forestlands may be eligible for reduced property tax assessments through this conservation use tax program. The Forestland Protection Act (FLPA), passed in 2008, established another class of conservation use valuation for large working forests. These properties are assessed according to soil type, productivity and use similar to the formula used for CUVA properties (page 19).

Benefits to Landowner

Landowners receive a reduced ad valorem tax assessment for property enrolled in FLPA. There are significant penalties for landowners who break the covenant before the end of the 15-year period. Owners who breach their conservation use covenant must pay back to the taxing authorities up to two times the savings they received. If the property is sold during the covenant period, the new landowner must agree to continue the covenant or be responsible for penalties.

Costs to Landowner

There are no direct costs to the landowner for entering into a FLPA covenant.

Term

Landowners must promise to maintain their lands in a qualified use for 15 years. Landowners can re-apply after 15 years if they wish to remain in the FLPA program.

Eligibility

Eligible tracts must be used for subsistence or commercial production of trees, timber or other wood and wood fiber products. The value of any residences on the property is excluded. Properties must be a minimum of 200 acres, but, unlike CUVA, there is no maximum acreage cap. Eligible landowners need not be U.S. citizens and can be individuals or any entity registered to do business in Georgia.

Landowner Initiation

Each county tax assessor's office is charged with administering the program. Contact the local county tax assessor's office (<http://gaassessors.com>) for applications and enrollment information. Applications for FLPA assessment must be filed with the county board of tax assessors on or before the last day for filing ad valorem tax returns in the county (usually April 1).

For more specifics on FLPA, see the Georgia Department of Revenue's web page at <http://dor.georgia.gov/forest-land-protection-act-valuation>.

Conservation Easements

Description

A conservation easement (CE) is a binding legal contract between a landowner and a qualified entity ("easement holder") that ensures the conservation values on a piece of property are maintained. Easement holders include local, state or federal agencies as well as nonprofit conservation organizations, which are typically referred to as land trusts. The protected property remains in private ownership and can be bought or sold, but the easement restrictions stay with the property. Conservation easements are typically granted in perpetuity, which means that the property is permanently protected by the easement terms. The easement holder is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the terms of the easement. The specific terms in a conservation easement are variable and are negotiated between landowners and the easement holder based on the conservation values that will be protected. Examples of rights typically extinguished by an easement include subdivision, future development, mining, billboards, utilities and significant change of natural features. However, a CE may allow for continued agricultural or forestry use or additional structures if they are compatible with the conservation purposes. CE's are a *flexible* tool to protect property and help keep land in its current condition for future generations.

Benefits to Landowner

A donation of a permanent conservation easement is eligible for significant federal and state income tax incentives. (See page 22 for more detailed information.) It *may* also reduce the landowner's property taxes by reducing the assessed value of the land. Landowners may ask for a re-assessment by their local tax assessor after completing a conservation easement.

Costs to Landowner

The main cost to the landowner is the lost development potential and profit. Easements typically diminish the market value of the land based on the amount of reserved rights, location and size of the property. Landowners are responsible for "due diligence" costs typically associated with any land transaction (e.g., attorney and accountant fees, surveys, etc.), and must pay for a qualified appraisal of the easement value to receive tax incentives. In addition, landowners may be asked to provide the easement holder with a stewardship endowment to help ensure the conservation organization has the means to monitor and defend the easement in perpetuity.

Eligibility

Any landowner, private or corporate, may place an easement on their property. There is no minimum or maximum size requirement, but eligible lands must meet conservation purposes as defined by the IRS in order to qualify as a charitable gift and receive federal tax incentives. To receive the state income tax credit, the land must be certified for conservation purposes as defined by Georgia DNR. See "Tax Incentives For Land Conservation" on the following page for more details.

Landowner Initiation

The first step in donating a conservation easement is finding a qualified organization or government agency willing to hold the easement. See the directory on page 38 for more information. More in-depth information on conservation easements and current incentives can be obtained from the Georgia Land Conservation Program, www.glcp.georgia.gov or 404.584.1000.

Tax Incentives for Land Conservation

Several tax benefits are associated with conservation easement donations. To be eligible for federal and state income tax reductions, the easement must be permanent, donated to a qualifying organization and meet conservation purposes. An appraisal (at the landowner's expense) is needed to establish the value of the donation to receive income tax benefits. Consulting a tax professional or attorney for advice specific to a landowner's financial situation is also recommended before making a donation. Federal Farm Bill programs that pay landowners for permanent conservation easements are not eligible for these tax incentives.

Georgia Conservation Tax Credit

Georgia provides a state income tax credit for the permanent protection of conservation land. The credit is worth up to 25 percent of the value of the donated property or easement, and capped at \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for corporations and partnerships. Any unused credit can be used over the next 10 years. The credit is available for the fee-simple donation of permanently protected property or the donation of a permanent conservation easement on property made after Jan. 1, 2006. Donations must be made to a qualified conservation organization as certified by Georgia DNR or to a state or local governmental agency. Bargain sales of property or easements below fair market value also qualify. To receive the state income tax credit, the land must be certified for conservation purposes by DNR. After making a qualifying donation, the landowner must submit an application to DNR for certification along with a \$5,000 nonrefundable fee. A certification letter by DNR and an appraisal review by the State Properties Commission are required to receive the credit. Landowners who receive a state of Georgia tax credit are also able to sell or transfer their tax credit. For more information on the tax credit, the certification process and a list of qualified organizations, visit www.glcp.georgia.gov or call 706.557.3225.

Georgia Tax Credit Transferability

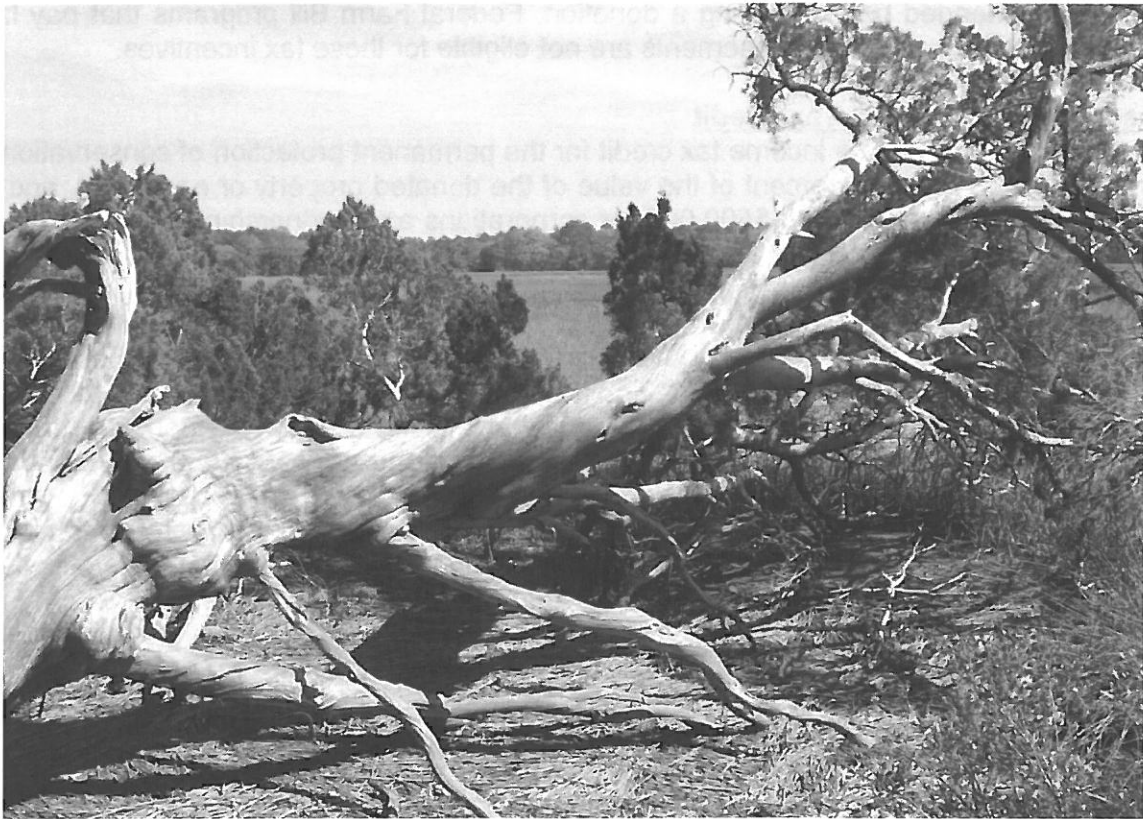
In 2011 the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation that allows any awarded tax credit to be sold or transferred to another Georgia taxpayer. The Georgia Department of Revenue allows transfer of any unused portion of the tax credit within the 10-year period the credit is valid. If a landowner has donated a conservation easement in the last 10 years and has not used all of the tax credit, the landowner may transfer the unused portion. If a landowner would like to sell the tax credit, consulting a tax professional is recommended.

Federal Income Tax Benefits

The IRS recognizes conservation easement donations as charitable contributions; thus, landowners can receive significant federal income tax deductions for donating property or conservation easements. Currently, taxpayers can deduct up to 30 percent of their adjusted gross income, up to the value of the donation, and use the deduction over six years. For the most current tax incentives available, visit www.glcp.georgia.gov or consult a tax professional.

Estate Taxes

Conservation easements can be an important estate-planning tool that can help keep land in a family's control by lowering the amount of estate taxes due from heirs. A landowner may be able to exclude from the taxable estate up to 40 percent of the value of land under an easement. There is another estate tax exclusion of up to \$500,000 for donated easements. Tax codes frequently change, so consult a tax professional about current incentives.





Georgia Land Conservation Program (GLCP)

Description

The Georgia Land Conservation Program (GLCP) is a funding mechanism for land conservation across the state. The program offers low-interest loans to cities, counties, state agencies and nonprofit conservation organizations to buy land or permanent conservation easements that meet defined conservation criteria. The program also offers grants to state agencies to fund due diligence activities associated with accepting conservation easements.

Benefits to Landowner

While landowners cannot apply directly to the GLCP for funding, they can contact local governments, state agencies or conservation groups about the possibility of partnering on a land conservation project. Program staff is available to answer general questions on land conservation options and provide guidance related to land protection for landowners. Staff can also visit local communities to provide information on land protection incentives.

The GLCP website (www.glcp.georgia.gov) provides a comprehensive overview of land conservation options and criteria for landowners. Check the site for more information on conservation easements, frequently asked questions about land conservation and tax incentives available for landowners who decide to conserve their land permanently.

Costs to Landowner

Costs to landowners vary depending upon the project scope, but GLCP funds can be used for some of the costs incurred on approved projects. Landowners must pay for their own appraisal if receiving tax incentives.

Eligibility

All qualified Georgia cities and counties, regardless of size, are eligible to apply for low-interest loans under the GLCP. To be qualified, a city or county must be in compliance with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. Nonprofit conservation organizations, in partnership with local governments, may apply for low-interest loans to acquire land or purchase conservation easements. State agencies such as the Georgia DNR, Georgia Forestry Commission, and Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission are also eligible to apply for grants and loans in partnership with private landowners.

Landowner Initiation

For more information on the GLCP and application process, visit www.glcp.georgia.gov or call 404.584.1000. Also, contact a local government or conservation organization about partnership opportunities. Individuals interested in supporting land conservation in Georgia can donate money to the GLCP through the statewide land conservation income tax check-off when filing their state tax returns.



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)



Description

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. The program is comprised of two components:

1. Under the **Agricultural Land Easements** component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land.
2. Under the **Wetlands Reserve Easements** component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

ACEP is a new program in the 2014 Farm Bill that consolidates three former programs: Wetlands Reserve, Grassland Reserve and Farm and Ranch Land Protection.

Benefits to Society

Agricultural Land Easements protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses. Land protected by these easements provides additional public benefits, including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat and protection of open space.

Wetland Reserve Easements provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity, and provide opportunities for educational, scientific and limited recreational activities.

1. Agricultural Land Easements

NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for buying Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. In the case of working farms, the program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program also protects grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland, including rangeland, pastureland and shrubland. Eligible partners include Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs.

Under the Agricultural Land component, NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. Where NRCS determines that grasslands of special environmental significance will be protected, NRCS may contribute up to 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

Benefits to Landowner

Landowners are paid for placing an ACEP conservation easement on their property. The conservation easement restricts the farm from being developed and helps farmers stay in business by providing a financial boost. The owner continues to own and work the land, but the easement ensures it will never be developed. The value of the conservation easement is determined by an appraisal, which provides a "before" easement value and an "after" easement value; the difference between these two values is the easement value. This is a matching program that can provide up to 50 percent of the costs to buy a permanent conservation easement matched with funds from a local sponsor, government agency or conservation group. Landowners may choose to donate up to 25 percent of the value of the easement, but the remaining 25 percent must come from a sponsoring government agency or non-profit organization. The donated portion of the easement may be eligible for state and federal income tax incentives.

Costs to Landowner

There are few costs to the landowner except for any costs associated with legal and financial counsel and with due diligence. If seeking income tax benefits, landowners must pay for a different appraisal than what is needed for the program.

Term

These conservation easements must be permanent.

Eligibility

Land eligible for agricultural easements includes cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and non-industrial private forest land that has prime, unique or statewide important soils, or meets a state or local priority. NRCS will prioritize applications that protect agricultural uses and related conservation values of the land and those that maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use.

To enroll land through agricultural land easements, NRCS enters into cooperative agreements with eligible partners. Each easement is required to have an agricultural land easement plan that promotes the long-term viability of the land.

To be considered for the program, lands must satisfy the following criteria: 1) contain at least 50 percent prime agricultural soils or soils of statewide importance; 2) have a minimum of one-third of the offered acreage in cropland or pasture; 3) have a pending offer with the easement buyer; 4) be privately owned; 5) be covered by a conservation plan for highly erodible lands; 6) be large enough to sustain agricultural production; 7) be accessible to markets; and, 8) be surrounded by parcels that can support long-term agricultural production. Forest land may not exceed two-thirds of the offered acreage.

Landowner Initiation

Since matching funds are required, a landowner should inquire with their local government or conservation group about the possibility of partnering to submit an application. Interested landowners should contact the state conservationist to discuss the project before submitting an application. For more information, contact the state NRCS office at 706.546.2272 or visit the Georgia NRCS website, www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/programs/easements/acep/?cid=stelprdb1248390.

2. Wetland Reserve Easements

NRCS also provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. For wetland reserve easements, NRCS pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

Description

This program is designed to enhance degraded wetlands caused by farming or draining. Improving wildlife habitat and water quality and reducing soil erosion are accomplished through financial assistance agreements that restore wetlands. To ensure the protection of these wetlands, conservation easements that restrict certain uses are placed on the property. However, as with all easements, the landowner retains ownership of the land.

Benefits to Landowner

Landowners can receive financial and technical assistance for restoring and protecting wetland values and functions, addressing problems related to farming practices, and enhancing wildlife recreational opportunities.

Costs to Landowner

Landowners receive financial assistance and restoration activities implemented on the property. However, the costs of establishing any compatible uses, such as food plots, are the responsibility of the landowner. The landowner still retains ownership, controls access and is responsible for paying taxes.

Term

NRCS may enroll eligible land through:

Permanent Easements – Permanent easements are conservation easements in perpetuity. NRCS pays 100 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement. Additionally, NRCS pays 75 to 100 percent of the restoration costs.

30-year Easements – 30-year easements expire after 30 years. Under 30-year easements, NRCS pays 50 to 75 percent of the easement value for the purchase of the easement. Additionally, NRCS pays 50 to 75 percent of the restoration costs.

The NRCS continues to assist landowners after a site has been restored by reviewing restoration measures, providing basic biological and engineering advice, and clarifying the technical and administrative aspects of the easement.

Eligibility/Limitations

Land eligible for wetland reserve easements includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. NRCS will prioritize applications based on the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

To enroll land through wetland reserve easements, NRCS enters into purchase agreements with eligible private landowners or Indian tribes that include the right for NRCS to develop and implement a wetland reserve restoration easement plan. This plan restores, protects and enhances the wetland's functions and values.

Landowners must have owned the property for two years or more to be eligible. The land must be restorable, consist of hydric soils and contain wetlands that have been or are currently farmed or converted. Riparian areas and limited adjacent uplands may also be eligible. There is no federal limitation on the number of acres that can be offered for the program, but the state may impose limitations. Landowners continue to control access to the land and may lease it for recreational activities (e.g., hunting or fishing). At any time, landowners can request that additional activities be considered if they are compatible with the protection and enhancement of the wetland (e.g., cutting hay, grazing livestock, harvesting wood, etc.).

For more information, contact the state NRCS office at 706.546.2272 or visit the Georgia NRCS website,

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/programs/easements/acep/?cid=stelprdb1248390.

For More Information on Either ACEP Component

Contact the local USDA Service Center (see directory, page 22) or visit the NRCS website, www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ga/programs/easements/acep.



Directory

Conservation Agency Offices by County

For the county of interest, scroll across to the organization you're looking for. There you'll find an office name to reference in other portions of the directory for contact information.

County	GA Forestry Commission District #	DNR WRD Game Management	USDA NRCS	USDA FSA	UGA Coop Ext	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Appling	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Baxley	Baxley	SE	Townsend
Atkinson	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Pearson	Pearson	SE	Townsend
Bacon	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Alma	Alma	SE	Townsend
Baker	2 (Flint)	Albany	Newton	Newton	SE	Ft Benning
Baldwin	3 (Oconee)	Fort Valley	Greensboro	Eatonton	NE	Athens
Banks	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Commerce	Commerce	NE	Athens
Barrow	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Monroe	Watkinsville	NE	Athens
Bartow	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Calhoun	Calhoun	NW	Athens
Ben Hill	2 (Flint)	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	SW	Townsend
Berrien	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Nashville	Nashville	SW	Townsend
Bibb	3 (Oconee)	Fort Valley	Fort Valley	Fort Valley	NW	Athens
Bleckley	6 (Ogeechee)	Fort Valley	Cochran	Cochran	SE	Townsend
Brantley	5 (Satilla)	Brunswick	Blackshear	Blackshear	SE	Townsend
Brooks	2 (Flint)	Albany	Quitman	Quitman	SW	Townsend
Bryan	6 (Ogeechee)	Brunswick	Richmond Hill	Sylvania	SE	Townsend
Bulloch	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Statesboro	Statesboro	SE	Townsend
Burke	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Waynesboro	Waynesboro	SE	Townsend
Butts	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	McDonough	Barnesville	NE	Athens
Calhoun	2 (Flint)	Albany	Morgan	Morgan	SW	Ft Benning
Camden	5 (Satilla)	Brunswick	Brunswick	Jesup	SE	Townsend
Candler	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Metter	Metter	SE	Townsend
Carroll	4 (Chattahoochee)	Armuchee	Carrollton	Carrollton	NW	Ft Benning
Catoosa	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	LaFayette	LaFayette	NW	Athens
Charlton	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Waycross	Blackshear	SE	Townsend
Chatham	6 (Ogeechee)	Brunswick	Richmond Hill	Sylvania	SE	Townsend
Chattahoochee	2 (Flint)	Albany	Buena Vista	Buena Vista	NW	Ft Benning
Chattooga	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Rome	La Fayette	NW	Athens
Cherokee	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Calhoun	Calhoun	NW	Athens
Clarke	1 (Coosa)	Thomson	Monroe	Watkinsville	NE	Athens
Clay	2 (Flint)	Albany	Cuthbert	Cuthbert	SW	Ft Benning
Clayton	4 (Chattahoochee)	Thomson	McDonough	Barnesville	NW	Athens
Clinch	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Nashville	Valdosta	SW	Townsend
Cobb	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Marietta	Calhoun	NW	Ft Benning
Coffee	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Douglas	Douglas	SE	Townsend
Colquitt	2 (Flint)	Albany	Moultrie	Moultrie	SW	Ft Benning
Columbia	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Augusta	Thomson	NE	Athens
Cook	2 (Flint)	Fitzgerald	Nashville	Adel	SW	Townsend
Coweta	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Newnan	Carrollton	NW	Ft Benning
Crawford	2 (Flint)	Fort Valley	Fort Valley	Fort Valley	NW	Athens

County	GA Forestry Commission District #	DNR WRD Game Management	USDA NRCS	USDA FSA	UGA Coop Ext	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Crisp	2 (Flint)	Albany	Cordele	Cordele	SW	Ft Benning
Dade	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	LaFayette	LaFayette	NW	Athens
Dawson	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Gainesville	Gainesville	NE	Athens
Decatur	2 (Flint)	Albany	Bainbridge	Bainbridge	SW	Ft Benning
DeKalb	4 (Chattahoochee)	Thomson	Lawrenceville	Monroe	NW	Athens
Dodge	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Eastman	Eastman	SE	Townsend
Dooly	2 (Flint)	Albany	Vienna	Vienna	SW	Ft Benning
Dougherty	2 (Flint)	Albany	Albany	Morgan	SW	Ft Benning
Douglas	4 (Chattahoochee)	Armuchee	Marietta	Carrollton	NW	Ft Benning
Early	2 (Flint)	Albany	Blakely	Blakely	SW	Ft Benning
Echols	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Nashville	Valdosta	SW	Townsend
Effingham	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Springfield	Springfield	SE	Townsend
Elbert	1 (Coosa)	Thomson	Elberton	Elberton	NE	Athens
Emanuel	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Swainsboro	Swainsboro	SE	Townsend
Evans	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Statesboro	Reidsville	SE	Townsend
Fannin	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Blairsville	Blairsville	NE	Athens
Fayette	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	McDonough	Barnesville	NW	Ft Benning
Floyd	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Rome	Rome	NW	Athens
Forsyth	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Gainesville	Gainesville	NW	Athens
Franklin	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Hartwell	Hartwell	NE	Athens
	North Fulton: 1 (Coosa)					
	South Fulton: 4 (Chattahoochee)					
Fulton	4 (Chattahoochee)	Thomson	Marietta	Carrollton	NW	Ft Benning
Gilmer	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Blairsville	Blairsville	NE	Athens
Glascok	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Louisville	Louisville	SE	Athens
Glynn	5 (Satilla)	Brunswick	Brunswick	Jesup	SE	Townsend
Gordon	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Calhoun	Calhoun	NW	Athens
Grady	2 (Flint)	Albany	Cairo	Cairo	SW	Ft Benning
Greene	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Greensboro	Watkinsville	NE	Athens
Gwinnett	1 (Coosa)	Thomson	Lawrenceville	Monroe	NW	Athens
Habersham	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Clarksville	Clarksville	NE	Athens
Hall	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Gainesville	Gainesville	NE	Athens
Hancock	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Greensboro	Sandersville	NE	Athens
Haralson	4 (Chattahoochee)	Armuchee	Carrollton	Carrollton	NW	Athens
Harris	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Buena Vista	Buena Vista	NW	Ft Benning
Hart	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Hartwell	Hartwell	NE	Athens
Heard	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Carrollton	Carrollton	NE	Ft Benning
Henry	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	McDonough	Barnesville	NW	Athens
Houston	2 (Flint)	Fort Valley	Perry	Fort Valley	SW	Townsend
Irwin	2 (Flint)	Fitzgerald	Tifton	Fitzgerald	SW	Townsend
Jackson	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Commerce	Commerce	NE	Athens
Jasper	3 (Oconee)	Fort Valley	Madison	Eatonton	NE	Athens
Jeff Davis	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Hazlehurst	Hazlehurst	SE	Townsend
Jefferson	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Louisville	Louisville	SE	Athens
Jenkins	6 (Ogeechee)	Thomson	Millen	Millen	SE	Townsend
Johnson	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Wrightsville	Sandersville	SE	Townsend
Jones	3 (Oconee)	Fort Valley	Madison	Eatonton	NE	Athens
Lamar	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Barnesville	Barnesville	NW	Ft Benning

County	GA Forestry Commission District #	DNR WRD Game Management	USDA NRCS	USDA FSA	UGA Coop Ext	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Lanier	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Lakeland	Valdosta	SW	Townsend
Laurens	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Dublin	Dublin	SE	Townsend
Lee	2 (Flint)	Albany	Leesburg	Leesburg	SW	Ft Benning
Liberty	6 (Ogeechee)	Brunswick	Richmond Hill	Jesup	SE	Townsend
Lincoln	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Washington	Washington	NE	Athens
Long	6 (Ogeechee)	Brunswick	Richmond Hill	Jesup	SE	Townsend
Lowndes	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Valdosta	Valdosta	SW	Townsend
Lumpkin	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Gainesville	Gainesville	NE	Athens
Macon	2 (Flint)	Albany	Oglethorpe	Oglethorpe	SW	Ft Benning
Madison	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Commerce	Commerce	NE	Athens
Marion	2 (Flint)	Albany	Buena Vista	Buena Vista	SW	Ft Benning
McDuffie	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Thomson	Thomson	NE	Athens
McIntosh	6 (Ogeechee)	Brunswick	Richmond Hill	Jesup	SE	Townsend
Meriwether	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Newnan	Carrollton	NW	Ft Benning
Miller	2 (Flint)	Albany	Colquitt	Colquitt	SW	Ft Benning
Mitchell	2 (Flint)	Albany	Camilla	Camilla	SW	Ft Benning
Monroe	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Barnesville	Barnesville	NE	Athens
Montgomery	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon	SE	Townsend
Morgan	1 (Coosa)	Thomson	Madison	Watkinsville	NE	Athens
Murray	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	La Fayette	Calhoun	NW	Athens
Muscogee	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Buena Vista	Buena Vista	NW	Ft Benning
Newton	4 (Chattahoochee)	Thomson	Madison	Monroe	NW	Athens
Oconee	1 (Coosa)	Thomson	Monroe	Watkinsville	NE	Athens
Oglethorpe	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Washington	Washington	NE	Athens
Paulding	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Marietta	Carrollton	NW	Athens
Peach	2 (Flint)	Fort Valley	Fort Valley	Fort Valley	SW	Townsend
Pickens	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Calhoun	Calhoun	NE	Athens
Pierce	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Blackshear	Blackshear	SE	Townsend
Pike	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Barnesville	Barnesville	NW	Ft Benning
Polk	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Rome	Rome	NW	Athens
Pulaski	6 (Ogeechee)	Fort Valley	Hawkinsville	Cochran	SW	Townsend
Putnam	3 (Oconee)	Fort Valley	Eatonton	Eatonton	NE	Athens
Quitman	2 (Flint)	Albany	Cuthbert	Cuthbert	SW	Ft Benning
Rabun	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Blairsville	Gainesville	NE	Athens
Randolph	2 (Flint)	Albany	Cuthbert	Cuthbert	SW	Ft Benning
Richmond	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Augusta	Thomson	NE	Athens
Rockdale	4 (Chattahoochee)	Thomson	Lawrenceville	Monroe	NW	Athens
Schley	2 (Flint)	Albany	Americus	Americus	SW	Ft Benning
Screven	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Sylvania	Sylvania	SE	Townsend
Seminole	2 (Flint)	Albany	Donalsonville	Donalsonville	SW	Ft Benning
Spalding	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	McDonough	Barnesville	NW	Ft Benning
Stephens	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Eastanollee	Gainesville	NE	Athens
Stewart	2 (Flint)	Albany	Americus	Preston	SW	Ft Benning
Sumter	2 (Flint)	Albany	Americus	Americus	SW	Ft Benning
Talbot	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Buena Vista	Buena Vista	NW	Ft Benning
Taliaferro	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Greensboro	Washington	NE	Athens
Tattnall	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Reidsville	Reidsville	SE	Townsend
Taylor	2 (Flint)	Fort Valley	Fort Valley	Fort Valley	SW	Ft Benning
Telfair	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	McRae	McRae	SE	Townsend

County	GA Forestry Commission District #	DNR WRD Game Management	USDA NRCS	USDA FSA	UGA Coop Ext	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Terrell	2 (Flint)	Albany	Dawson	Dawson	SW	Ft Benning
Thomas	2 (Flint)	Albany	Thomasville	Thomasville	SW	Ft Benning
Tift	2 (Flint)	Albany	Tifton	Tifton	SW	Townsend
Toombs	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Lyons	Lyons	SE	Townsend
Towns	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Blairsville	Blairsville	NE	Athens
Treutlen	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Mt. Vernon	Mt. Vernon	SE	Townsend
Troup	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Newnan	Carrollton	NW	Ft Benning
Turner	2 (Flint)	Albany	Ashburn	Ashburn	SW	Townsend
Twiggs	3 (Oconee)	Fort Valley	Eastman	Cochran	SE	Athens
Union	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Blairsville	Blairsville	NE	Athens
Upson	4 (Chattahoochee)	Fort Valley	Barnesville	Barnesville	NW	Ft Benning
Walker	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	LaFayette	LaFayette	NW	Athens
Walton	1 (Coosa)	Thomson	Monroe	Monroe	NE	Athens
Ware	5 (Satilla)	Fitzgerald	Waycross	Douglas	SE	Townsend
Warren	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Louisville	Thomson	NE	Athens
Washington	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Sandersville	Sandersville	SE	Athens
Wayne	5 (Satilla)	Brunswick	Jesup	Jesup	SE	Townsend
Webster	2 (Flint)	Albany	Preston	Preston	SW	Ft Benning
Wheeler	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Alamo	McRae	SE	Townsend
White	1 (Coosa)	Gainesville	Eastonlee	Gainesville	NE	Athens
Whitfield	1 (Coosa)	Armuchee	Dalton	Calhoun	NW	Athens
Wilcox	6 (Ogeechee)	Fitzgerald	Rochelle	Rochelle	SW	Townsend
Wilkes	3 (Oconee)	Thomson	Washington	Washington	NE	Athens
Wilkinson	3 (Oconee)	Fort Valley	Dublin	Dublin	SE	Athens
Worth	2 (Flint)	Albany	Sylvester	Sylvester	SW	Ft Benning



WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Game Management Section

NW Region I
2592 Floyd Springs Rd
Armuchee, GA 30105
706.295.6041

NE Region II
2150 Dawsonville Hwy
Gainesville, GA 30501
770.535.5700

E Central Region III
142 Bob Kirk Road NW
Thomson, GA 30824
706.595.4222

W Central Region IV
1014 MLK Jr. Blvd
Fort Valley, GA 31030
478.825.6354

SW Region V
2024 Newton Road
Albany, GA 31701
229.430.4254

S Central Region VI
1773-A Bowen's Mill Hwy
Fitzgerald, GA 31750
229.426.5267

Coastal Region VII
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520
912.262.3173



Nongame Conservation Section

Social Circle Office
2065 Highway 278 SE
Social Circle, GA 30025
770.918.6411
*Natural heritage data, plants,
aquatic species, mammals and
land conservation incentives*

Forsyth Office
116 Rum Creek Drive
Forsyth, GA 21029
478.994.1438
*Reptiles, amphibians, birds,
mammals, habitat restoration and
nongame technical assistance*

Brunswick Office
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520
912.264.7355
*Marine mammals, sea turtles,
shorebirds and other coastal
species*

<http://www.georgiawildlife.org/>



Private Lands Assistance

All contacts are Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) employees except where noted.

WRD Game Management Section Private Lands Program

Forest Stewardship and Forestry for Wildlife

Partnership Programs Technical Assistance

North: 770.761.1697
South: 229.420.1290

Bobwhite Quail Initiative Financial and Technical Assistance

East: 706.554.3745
Southwest: 229.420.1212
Central: 478.296.6176

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists

Decatur Co: 229.246.5773, ext. 3
Henry Co: 707.957.5705, ext. 105
Coffee Co: 912.384.4811, ext. 3

Private Lands Program Headquarters

116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029
478.994.7583

WRD Nongame Conservation Section

Technical Assistance/Habitat Restoration

116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029
478.994.1438

Land Conservation Assistance/Tax Incentives

2065 Hwy 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025
770.918.6411 or 770.761.3043

Army Compatible Use Buffers Program *(conservation management of lands near military installations)*

Fort Stewart area
Richmond Hill, GA
912.322.0738

Fort Benning area
The Nature Conservancy
Georgia Field Office
Fort Benning, GA
706.682.0217

Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Safe Harbor Program
River Creek Wildlife Management Area
871 US-84 BUS
Thomasville, GA 31792
478.299.5059

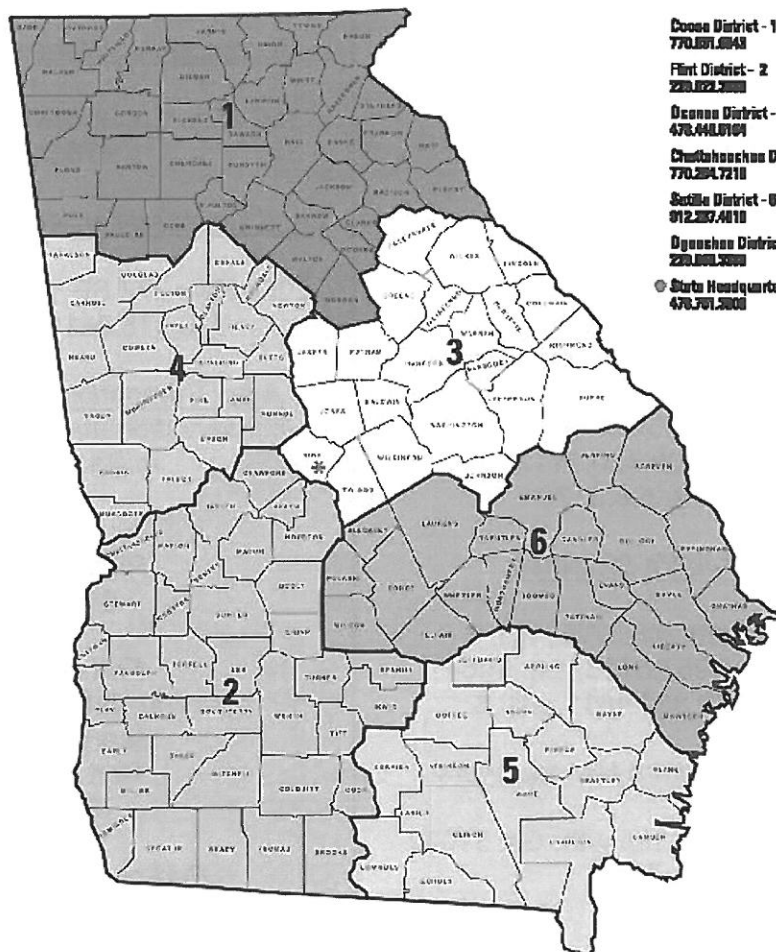
Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) Districts

www.gfc.state.ga.us/about-us/contact-us/district-offices



5645 Riggins Mill Road
Dry Branch, GA 31020
1-800-GA-TREES (428-7337)
GaTrees.org

Districts



Coosa District - 1
770.881.8943

Flint District - 2
229.822.3888

Oconee District - 3
478.448.0104

Chattahoochee District - 4
770.284.7210

Saville District - 5
912.287.4010

Ogeechee District - 6
229.888.3888

● State Headquarters
478.761.3800

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

www.fws.gov/offices/Directory/ListOffices.cfm?statecode=13

Southeast Regional Office

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30345
404.679.4000

North Georgia Office

105 Westpark Drive Suite D
Athens, GA 30606
706.613.9493



Coastal Sub Office

4980 Wildlife Drive, NE
Townsend, GA 31331
912.832.8739

West Georgia Office

P.O. Box 52560
Fort Benning, GA 31995
706.544.6428

University of GA Cooperative Extension

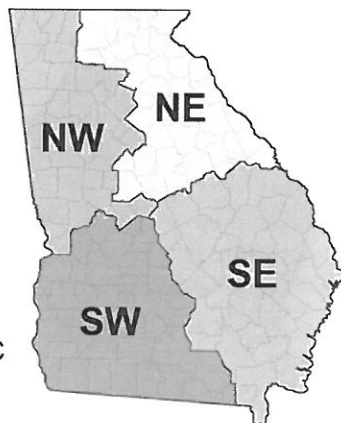
<http://extension.uga.edu/about/county/index.cfm>

Northwest

1109 Experiment Street
Flynt Building Room 227
Griffin, GA 30223
770.228.7274

Southwest

2360 Rainwater Road
UGA Tifton Campus Conference C
Tifton, GA 31793-5766
706.542.3824



Northeast

302 Hoke Smith Building
Athens, GA 30602
706.542.3179

Southeast

P.O. Box 8112
Statesboro, GA 30460
912.681.0177



Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission

<http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/state-headquarters>

Region 1

1282 SR 53, Spur SW
Suite 300
Calhoun, GA 30701
706.624.1434

Region 4

3014 Heritage Rd
Suite 1
Milledgeville, GA 31061
478.445.5766

Region 2

P.O. Box 8024
4310 Lexington Road
Athens, GA 30603
706.552.4479

Region 5

4344 Albany Hwy
Dawson, GA 39842
229.995.6001

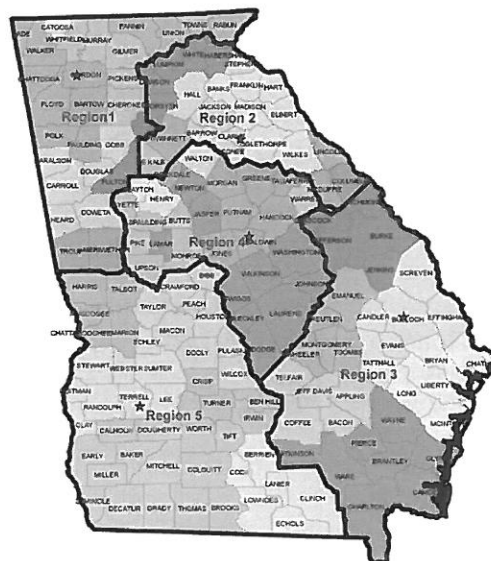
Region 3

151 Langston Chapel Road
Suite 700
Statesboro, GA 30459
912.681.5241

State Office

P.O. Box 8024
4310 Lexington Rd
Athens, GA 30603
706.552.4470

GSWCC Regions &
Soil and Water Conservation Districts





Promoting voluntary, incentive-based conservation of open land
for the benefit of present and future generations

Working with Land Trusts

*This information comes from the **Georgia Land Conservation Center**:
an excellent resource if you are considering a conservation easement.*

Georgia Land Conservation Center
170 Security Circle, Suite 106, Athens, GA 30605
706.546.7507 www.galandcc.com

What Is a Land Trust

A land trust is a nonprofit organization that actively works to conserve land by undertaking or assisting direct land transactions. Such organizations often have "land trust" as part of their name (e.g., the Oconee River Land Trust) or they may be known as a "conservancy" (e.g., the Mountain Conservation Trust of Georgia). Still others, functioning as land trust, do so under a variety of titles (e.g., Georgia Wildlife Federation).

Finding a Suitable Land Trust Partner

Landowners seeking to permanently conserve their land while continuing to own, manage and use it in traditional ways, do so with a conservation easement that is held by a land trust. Thus, finding an appropriate land trust to partner with is an important early step in the land conservation process.

There are about 50 land trusts that operate in Georgia (see list below). **Helping you sort through the list to find the right partner is one of the services the Georgia Land Conservation Center provides.** We seek to identify your land conservation goals and match you with a land trust that will help you accomplish them. In so doing, we try to match the land and its uses (e.g., agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, recreation) with both your interests and that of the land trust.

Accredited Land Trusts

Both the state of Georgia and the federal government offer tax incentives to promote private, voluntary land conservation. Both require that the land trust be "qualified," although both define "qualified" somewhat differently. To qualify for the Georgia conservation tax credit, a "qualified" land trust must also be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (details at <http://glcp.georgia.gov/qualified-organizations>). The Georgia Land Conservation Center can help landowners sort through these classifications and identify what land trusts are currently qualified at state and Federal levels.

Land Trusts Operating in Georgia (listed in alphabetical order)

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Land Trust

799 Washington St.
P.O. Box 807
Harpers Ferry, VA 25425
304.535.6331
www.appalachiantrail.org

Athens Land Trust

685 North Pope St.
Athens, GA 30601
706.613.0122
www.athenslandtrust.org

Atlantic Coast Conservancy

634 South Main St.
Jasper, GA 30143
706.273.9173
www.atlanticcoastconservancy.org

Audubon Environmental Land Trust

1000 Saint Albans Drive
Suite 350
Raleigh, NC 27609
919.414.2611
aelandtrust.org

Black Family Land Trust

307 West Main St.
Durham, NC 27701
864.469.0095
www.bflt.org

Broad River Watershed Association

P.O. Box 661
Danielsville, GA 30633
706.795.5097 or 795.5313
www.brwa.org

Camden County Land Trust

308 Mush Bluff Trail
St. Marys, GA 31558
912.925.3159
www.camdencountylandtrust.org

Georgia Piedmont Land Trust

P.O. Box 3687
Suwanee, GA 30024
770.945.3111
www.gplt.org

Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

1516 Peachtree St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30309.2916
404.885.7817
www.georgiatrusted.org

Georgia Wildlife Federation

11600 Hazelbrand Road
Covington, GA 30014
770.787.7887
www.gwff.org

Griffin Area Land Trust

333 South 9th St.
Griffin, GA 30224

Gwinnett Open Land Trust

see Georgia Piedmont Land Trust

Land Trust For The Little Tennessee

P.O. Box 1148
557 East Main St.
Franklin, NC 28744-2711
828.524.2711
www.ltlf.org

Lookout Mountain Conservancy

Box 76
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350
423.424.3882
www.lookoutmountainconservancy.org

Lula Lake Land Trust

Suite A 29 Mount Olive Road
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750
706.820.0520
www.lulalake.org

Smoky Mountain National Land Trust

See SE Regional Land Trust

Southeast Land Preservation Trust

11 Wildwood Valley
Atlanta, GA 30350
404.892.2912
www.slpt.org

Southeast Regional Land Conservancy

6111 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Building E, Suite 102
Atlanta, GA 30328
770.351.0411
www.serlc.org

Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land

P.O. Box 680694
Marietta, GA 30067
404.376.7012
www.stpal.org

Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 71857
Chattanooga, TN 37407-0857
423.771.9671
www.scci.org

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Box 1212
Gainesville, GA 30503-1212
770.535.7446
www.seclimbers.org

Southern Conservation Trust

192 McIntosh Trail
Peachtree City, GA 30269
770.486.7774
www.sclandtrust.org

**Central Savannah River
Land Trust**

P.O. Box 148
753 Broad St.
Augusta, GA 30903
706.312.5263
www.csrlt.org

**Chattahoochee Hill Country
Conservancy**

560 Tabb Way
Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268
404.932.0786
www.chatthillcountry.org

**Chattahoochee Valley
Land Trust**

P.O. Box 175
Columbus, GA 31902
706.718.3324
www.galandtrust.org

Chattooga Conservancy

Sequoia Hills Lane
Clayton, GA 30525
706.782.6097
www.chattoogariver.org

Chattowah Open Land Trust
See GA-AL Land Trust

Civil War Trust

1156 15th St. NW
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005
202.367.1861
www.civilwar.org

Cobb Land Trust

P.O. Box 672652
Marietta, GA 30006-0045
www.cobblandtrust.org

**Elachee Nature Science
Center**

2125 Elachee Drive
Gainesville, GA 30504
770.535.1976
www.elachee.org

MadisonMorgan Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 752
Madison, GA 30650
706.342.9252
www.mmcgeorgia.org

**Mountain Conservation Trust
of Georgia**

104 North Main St., Suite B3
Jasper, GA 30143
706.253.4077
www.mctga.org

National Wild Turkey Federation

P.O. Box 530
Edgefield, SC 29824
803.637.3106
www.nwtf.org

New England Forestry Foundation

P.O. Box 1346
Littleton, MA 01460-4346
978.952.6856
www.newenglandforestry.org

**Newton County Land
Trust Alliance**

P.O. Box 208
Covington, GA 30015-0208
770.786.4390

North American Land Trust

P.O. Box 467
Chadds Ford, PA 19317
610.388.3670
www.nalt.org

Ocmulgee Land Trust

365 Old Club Road S
Macon, GA 31210
478.447.0535

Oconee River Land Trust

675 Pulaski St.
Suite 2300
Athens, GA 30601
706.552.3138
www.oconeeriverlandtrust.org

St. Simons Land Trust

P.O. Box 24615
1624 Frederica Road, Ste. 6
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
912.638.9109
www.sslt.org

**Tall Timbers Research Station
& Land Conservancy**

13093 Henry Beadel Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32312-0918
850.893.4153
www.talltimbers.org

**The Archaeological
Conservancy
Southeast Regional Office**

P.O. Box 270
Marks, MS 38646
662.326.6465
www.americanarchaeology.com

The Conservation Fund

100 Edgewood Ave. NE
Suite 930
Atlanta, GA 30303
404.221.0405
www.conservationfund.org

The Karst Conservancy

2911 SE 17th St.
Ocala, Florida 34471-5514
352.425.0426
www.karstconservancy.org

**The Nature Conservancy
in Georgia**

1330 W Peachtree St.
Suite 410
Atlanta, GA 30309-2904
404.873.6946
www.nature.org/georgia

The Trust for Public Land

One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree St. NW
Suite 1840; Atlanta, GA 30308
404.873.7306
www.tpl.org/offices

Georgia-Alabama Land Trust
428 Bull Street, Suite 210
Savannah, GA 31401
912.231.0507
www.galandtrust.org

Georgia Land Conservation Center
170 Security Circle, Suite 106
Athens, GA 30605
706.546.7507
www.galandcc.com

Rails to Trails Conservancy
2546 Blairstone Pines Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850.942.2379

Savannah Chatham Area Land Trust
P.O. Box 23911
Savannah, GA 31405
912.376.0454

Wetlands America Trust - Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
3870 Leeds Ave., Suite 114
North Charleston, SC 29405
843.745.9110
www.ducks.org/related/wetlands-america-trust

Wildlife Land Trust- Humane Society of the United States
2100 L St. NW
Washington, DC 20037
800.729.7283
www.wildlifelandtrust.org



Qualified Organizations for the State of Georgia Conservation Tax Credit

All conservation donations completed **after** Jan. 1, 2014, must be in favor of Georgia local governments, Georgia state agencies, federal government agencies or accredited land trusts to be eligible for the Georgia Conservation Tax Credit.

Accredited land trusts have earned national certification through the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). For more information on LTA accreditation and a full list of accredited land trusts that may receive tax credit-eligible conservation donations, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org.

Donations to non-accredited land trusts completed **before** Jan. 1, 2014, may still qualify for the tax credit. See <http://glcp.georgia.gov/qualified-organizations> for a table listing all non-governmental organizations - accredited and non-accredited – that were qualified to receive tax credit eligible donations **before** Jan. 1, 2014.

USDA Service Centers - Offices for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA)

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

<p>Adel Service Center 204 East Ninth St. Adel, GA 31620-3596 229.896.3206</p>	<p>Baxley Service Center 239 NE Park Ave., Suite A Baxley, GA 31513-0058 912.367.6684</p>	<p>Clarksville Service Center 555 Monroe St. Clarksville, GA 30523-7815 706.754.6239</p>
<p>Alamo Service Center 16 W Forest Ave., Suite 108 Alamo, GA 30411 912.568.7411</p>	<p>Blackshear Service Center 705 College Ave Blackshear, GA 31516 912.449.5303</p>	<p>Cochran Service Center 142 E. Peacock St. Cochran, GA 31014-1558 478.934.6571</p>
<p>Albany Service Center 125 Pine Ave., Suite 150 Albany, GA 31701-2593 229.430.8509</p>	<p>Blairsville Service Center 165 Wellborn St. Blairsville, GA 30512-3549 706.745.2012</p>	<p>Colquitt Service Center 150 West St. Colquitt, GA 39837-3417 229.758.5219</p>
<p>Alma Service Center 203 S Dixon St. Alma, GA 31510-2703 912.632.4611</p>	<p>Blakely Service Center 1059 Arlington Ave. Blakely, GA 39823-1606 229.723.3193</p>	<p>Commerce Service Center 1458 Ila Road Commerce, GA 30530-4466 706.335.8111</p>
<p>Americus Service Center 127 William Bowen Pointe Americus, GA 31719-9237 229.924.4056</p>	<p>Brunswick Service Center 3661 Altama Ave. Brunswick, GA 31520-3631 912.265.8043</p>	<p>Cordele Service Center 110 W 13th Ave. Cordele, GA 31015-4265 229.273.4148</p>
<p>Ashburn Service Center 222 Rockhouse Road Ashburn, GA 31714 229.567.3304</p>	<p>Buena Vista Service Center 111 Baker St., Suite D Buena Vista, GA 31803-9362 229.649.4495 ext 2</p>	<p>Cuthbert Service Center 88 East Dawson St. Cuthbert, GA 39840 229.732.3001</p>
<p>Athens - State Office 355 E Hancock Ave. Athens, GA 30601-2775 706.546.2162</p>	<p>Cairo Service Center 65 11th Ave. NE Cairo, GA 39828-1693 229.377.1607</p>	<p>Dalton Service Center 301 W Crawford St. Dalton, GA 30720 706.278.7906</p>
<p>Augusta Service Center 501 Greene St., Suite 309 Augusta, GA 30901-4404 706.724.2247</p>	<p>Calhoun Service Center 1282 SR 53, Spur SW, Suite 100 Calhoun, GA 30701-7636 706.629.2582</p>	<p>Dawson Service Center 955 Forrester Drive Dawson, GA 39842-2100 229.995.5811</p>
<p>Bainbridge Service Center 101 Ag Lane Bainbridge, GA 39817 229.246.5773</p>	<p>Camilla Service Center 30 W Broad St. Camilla, GA 31730-1764 229.336.1451</p>	<p>Donalsonville Service Center 207 E Crawford St. Donalsonville, GA 39845-1319 229.524.2434</p>
<p>Barnesville Service Center 231 Highway 41N Barnesville, GA 30204-3235 770.358.0787</p>	<p>Carrollton Service Center 408 N White St. Carrollton, GA 30117-2441 770.834.2097</p>	<p>Douglas Service Center 703 Ward St. E Douglas, GA 31533-0311 912.384.4811</p>

Dublin Service Center 100 N Franklin St. Dublin, GA 31021-6799 478.272.1757	Hazlehurst Service Center 9 E Franklin St. Hazlehurst, GA 31539 912.375.2015	McDonough Service Center 333 Phillips Drive McDonough, GA 30253-3444 770.957.7473
Eastanollee Service Center 1630 Clary Connector Eastanollee, GA 30577 706.779.2134	Jesup Service Center 1900 Sunset Blvd. Jesup, GA 31545-7812 912.427.2502	McRae Service Center 91 Telfair Ave. McRae, GA 31055-2163 229.868.5696
Eastman Service Center 230 Foster St., Suite C Eastman, GA 31023-6255 478.374.2531	LaFayette Service Center 208 N Duke St. LaFayette, GA 30728-2591 706.638.1558	Metter Service Center 1075 E Hiawatha St. Metter, GA 30439-4917 912.685.5255
Eatonton Service Center 130 Sparta Highway Eatonton, GA 31024-8484 706.485.2341	Lakeland Service Center 1014 West Thigpen Lakeland, GA 31635 229.482.3440	Millen Service Center 837 College Ave. Millen, GA 30442-1678 478.982.4281
Elberton Service Center 333 Heard St. Elberton, GA 30635-2436 706.283.3021	Lawrenceville Service Center 750 S Perry St., Suite 410 Lawrenceville, GA 30046 770.963.9288	Monroe Service Center 111 E Spring St. Monroe, GA 30655 770.267.1359
Fort Valley Service Center 1030 Peach Parkway, Suite 4 Fort Valley, GA 31030 478.827.0016	Lyons Service Center 200 Courthouse Square Lyons, GA 30436-1010 912.526.6154	Morgan Service Center 10893 Dickey St. Morgan, GA 39866-0066 229.849.2415
Gainesville Service Center 734 E Crescent Drive Gainesville, GA 30501-5082 770.536.0549	Leesburg Service Center 101 Main St. Leesburg, GA 31763-3792 229.759.9267	Moultrie Service Center 350 Veterans Pkwy N, Bldg 3 Moultrie, GA 31788-4178 229.985.6509
Greensboro Service Center 1600 S Main St. Greensboro, GA 30642-1266 706.453.7021	Louisville Service Center 406 Green St. Louisville, GA 30434-1714 478.625.7771	Mt. Vernon Service Center 301 S Richardson St. Mount Vernon, GA 30445 912.583.4541
Hartwell Service Center 88 Maret St. Hartwell, GA 30643-1172 706.376.5451	Madison Service Center 205 E Jefferson St. Madison, GA 30650-1701 706.342.1315	Newnan Service Center 580-B Hwy 34 E Newnan, GA 30263 770.251.4283
Hawkinsville Service Center 105 N Lumpkin St. Hawkinsville, GA 31036-1768 478.783.1391	Marietta Service Center 678 S Cobb Drive SE Suite 150 Marietta, GA 30060-3105 770.792.0594	Oglethorpe Service Center 122 Chatham St. Oglethorpe, GA 31068 478.472.7012

<p>Pearson Service Center 686 Austin Ave. E Pearson, GA 31642 912.422.3363</p> <p>Perry Service Center 801 Main St., 2nd Floor Perry, GA 31069-3331 478.987.2271</p> <p>Preston Service Center 177 Montgomery St. Preston, GA 31824 229.828.2015</p> <p>Quitman Service Center 400 E Courtland Ave. Quitman, GA 31643 229.263.4116</p> <p>Reidsville Service Center 206 South Main St. Reidsville, GA 30453 912.557.6706</p> <p>Richmond Hill Service Cntr 185 Richard R. Davis Drive Richmond Hill, GA 31324 912.459.2350</p> <p>Rochelle Service Center 671 2nd Ave. Rochelle, GA 31079 229.365.2231</p> <p>Rome Service Center 1401 Dean St., Suite I Rome, GA 30161-6494 706.291.5654</p> <p>Sandersville Service Center 1222 South Harris St. Sandersville, GA 31082-6912 478.552.6073</p> <p>Springfield Service Center 203 S Laurel St. Springfield, GA 31329 912.754.6664</p>	<p>Statesboro Service Center 151 Langston Chapel Rd. Statesboro, GA 30458-3751 912.871.2605</p> <p>Swainsboro Service Center 145 N Anderson Dr. Swainsboro, GA 30401-4439 478.237.8866</p> <p>Sylvania Service Center 216 Mims Rd. Sylvania, GA 30467-1997 912.564.7101</p> <p>Sylvester Service Center 410 N Livingston St. Sylvester, GA 31791-1626 229.776.6985</p> <p>Thomasville Service Center 404 N Broad St. Thomasville, GA 31792 229.226.3462</p> <p>Thomson Service Center 226 Bob Kirk Rd. NW Thomson, GA 30824-6744 706.595.1339</p> <p>Tifton Service Center 1468 Carpenter Road S Tifton, GA 31793 229.382.2775</p> <p>Valdosta Service Center 2108 E Hill Ave. Valdosta, GA 31601-0600 229.242.0841</p> <p>Vienna Service Center 1150 Industrial Dr., Suite 201 Vienna, GA 31092 229.268.4131</p> <p>Washington Service Center 52A Lexington Ave. Washington, GA 30673-1422 706.678.2630</p>	<p>Watkinsville Service Center 1291 Greensboro Hwy. Watkinsville, GA 30677-2718 706.769.3987</p> <p>Waycross Service Center 601 Tebeau St., Rm 210 Waycross, GA 31501-4701 912.285.5975</p> <p>Waynesboro Service Cntr 715 W 6th St. Waynesboro, GA 30830-4407 706.554.2109</p> <p>Wrightsville Service Center 6818 E College St. Wrightsville, GA 31096 478.864.2810</p>
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Acknowledgements

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Editor:

Steve Raper
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
Nongame Conservation Section

For additional copies, contact:

Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section

Forsyth, GA: 478.994.1438

or

Social Circle, GA: 770.918.6411

Or download a version with the latest updates:

www.georgiawildlife.com/LandownersGuide

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 - landowner: Joe Burnam, GaDNR
 - mountain stream: Steve Raper, GaDNR
- p. 4: landowners & biologists: Heidi Hall, The Orianne Society
- p. 7: red-tailed hawk: Todd Schneider, GaDNR
- p. 8: longleaf pine reproduction: J.J. Bachant-Brown, The Longleaf Alliance
- p. 12: prescribed fire: Shan Cammack, GaDNR
- p. 18: forest food plot: Steve Raper, GaDNR
- p. 23: saltwater marsh edge: Steve Raper, GaDNR
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SHOW YOUR SUPPORT



Now Only \$25!

In our state there is a critical connection between car ownership and wildlife conservation—a car's back bumper.

That's because sales and renewals of Georgia's wildlife license plates provide vital support for conserving rare species such as bald eagles, restoring bobwhite quail and enhancing trout fisheries.

In fact, these tags are the number one source of non-federal funds for Georgia Department of Natural Resources programs that are dedicated to nongame wildlife and bobwhite quail, and depend wholly on donations, not state funds.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife 2011 Survey showed that there are over 2.4 million wildlife watchers, 829,000 anglers and 392,000 hunters in Georgia. Bottom line: Wildlife is important to Georgians! Let's show our support!